

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

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Please amend paragraph <sup>0013</sup>~~[0014]~~ of the specification *as published* as follows:

<sup>0013</sup>  
<sup>0014</sup> It is also advantageous if the laser beam 3 is guided by the scanner device in such a way that it describes about the center of its machining area a narrowing spiral 5. This allows, especially in the case of shoot-through machining, more even fusion or melting and cooling processes and thus the formation of a topographical change in the form of an evenly contoured elevation 6. The height of the topographical change can be measured or monitored using, for example, an electrical contact sensor 7.

<sup>0016</sup>  
Please insert after paragraph <sup>0017</sup>~~[0017]~~ of the specification *as published* as follows:

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

For a fuller understanding of the nature and objects of the present invention reference should be made by the following detailed description taken in with the accompanying drawings in which:

- Fig. 1 shows an inward narrowing spiral;  
Fig. 2 depicts a laser beam guided by a mirror to move in a narrowing spiral pattern; and  
Fig. 3 shows a topographic change detected using an electrically conductive contact sensor.

<sup>0018</sup>  
Please amend paragraph <sup>0019</sup>~~[0019]~~ of the specification *as published* as follows:

<sup>0018</sup>  
<sup>0019</sup> In a first illustrative embodiment, a coated sheet 1 is aligned, a scanner device 2 is moved evenly over it and directs a laser beam 3 onto a plurality of machining areas one after the other. The scanner device consists of a computer-controlled mirror system 4 which is pivotable in two dimensions. The scanner device has approx. 320 mm distance to the surface of the sheet, the laser focus is situated about 20 mm before the surface. The defocusing of the laser beam produces an areal and even warming of the machining area. This results in a more